



NORTH QUAYS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT



Project Partners

The North Quays Public Infrastructure Project is being funded in partnership between the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Waterford City & County Council. The overall level of estimated public infrastructure investment is €207m. Kilkenny County Council & Iarnród Éireann are also key partners in the delivery of the project.

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As the project develops, we will continue to provide general updates via the project website, newsletters and Waterford City & County Council social media.

Dear reader,

Following the successful installation of the Sustainable Transport Bridge superstructure in May, this newsletter provides an update on the ongoing bridge related works.

Site works are also progressing on other elements, and the start of the western railway flood defence scheme in August will mark another key milestone in the construction of the overall project. These works pose a significant civil engineering challenge with close interfaces with the River Suir and the live rail tracks on the approach to Plunkett Station.

For safety and logistical reasons the western flood defence works will require some disruptions to Waterford train services during the coming eight months. Further information on these works are provided below.

The access infrastructure works at Ferrybank will be reaching a conclusion towards the end of the Summer, any remaining disruptive works will be completed during the Summer period to reduce any impact on local schools. The completion of the works at Abbey Road will also facilitate the potential opening by Kilkenny County Council of the 5km section of South East Greenway between Ferrybank & Curraghmore (near the Rhu Glenn Hotel).

The new South Quays Plaza at the Clock Tower is also progressing towards completion later this Summer. While the Sustainable Transport Bridge will not open for another 18 months, it is intended to open the South Plaza to the public this Autumn.

Works on the new transport hub will reach a conclusion by the end of the year and the external set-down areas, footbridge, landscaping, etc. are now well advanced.

Iarnród Éireann's track & signalling works and the railway flood defence works will progress in 2026 for the anticipated opening of the train station in Q2 of 2027.

Yours sincerely,



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council



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Bridge Finishing Works

Once the bridge is fixed into position the bridge finishing works will proceed. These include the final painting of welded connections and joints, the erection of the stainless steel and glazed parapet, the installation of a leanrail and feature lighting, the waterproofing and surfacing of the steel deck, the installation of benches at the bridge viewing areas and pedestrian/cyclist barriers at the opening bascule spans.

The river pier protection systems that protect the bridge piers from potential collisions from river vessels will also be completed in the coming months and permanent navigation lighting will be installed.

These bridge finishing works are significant and will be progressed to completion over the coming six months. As part of their North Quays SDZ development, Harcourt Developments will fast-track the construction of the elements of public realm within their development to enable the public opening of the sustainable transport bridge. These combined works will proceed over the coming 18 months.



Sustainable Transport Bridge

The momentous delivery, lifting and installation of the four steel superstructure sections of the sustainable transport bridge was successfully completed on Wednesday May 28th. The four sections were installed on temporary steel support frames in the river pending their connection and final fixing of the bridge superstructure onto its permanent concrete support piers and abutments.

This process requires very high precision levels to ensure the precise alignment of the bridge is correct, and requires a series of checks including positional surveys, load and deflection testing, thermal expansion analysis, etc.

The mechanical & electrical components and instrumentation that power and control the opening and closing of the central bascule spans also need to be connected, commissioned and activated.

The fixing of the steel superstructure into its final position on permanent supports takes time, once the checks and surveys are completed final concrete sections are poured to fix the support piers into the superstructure. The temporary supports are kept in position while the concrete gains its full strength to support the superstructure.

The bridge has been designed and installed so that the bascule spans can be temporarily opened and closed to accommodate river vessels, while the final fixing process is ongoing. The bascule spans were successfully opened and closed for the first time on Friday July 11th.

There will however be some ongoing disruption to river navigation over the coming weeks until such times as the bridge is fixed into its final position.

The Port of Waterford has issued a Notice to Mariners in relation to river navigation during these bridge commissioning works.

The notice is available to view [here](#).



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Stakeholder Collaboration

The project team is collaborating with Iarnród Éireann on the planning for the western flood defence works to prioritise safety while striking the right balance between optimising efficiency and minimising disruption to rail services.

Starting on Monday August 25th, bus transfers will be put in place for five Plunkett Station train services on Monday to Thursday, between 09:45 & 13:05.

Details of these services are provided overleaf. Peak commuter services in the early morning, late afternoon/evening, as well as all Friday and weekend services will be unaffected.

These arrangements will end on Thursday 26th March 2026. To avoid impacting on Christmas and peak Winter passengers, all services will run as normal over the festive period.

It is estimated that the off-peak bus transfers will impact on approximately 15% of weekly Plunkett Station rail passengers, and the times are targeted to avoid disruption to peak commuter services as well as all day Friday and weekend journeys.



Western Railway Flood Defence Works

Recent years have seen a pronounced increase in the severity and frequency of flooding of Plunkett Train Station and the surrounding railway infrastructure. Recent flood risk assessments have identified the need for a new flood defence system to protect both existing and proposed new rail infrastructure in Waterford.

The North Quays Public Infrastructure Project is delivering a railway flood defence scheme that will protect the rail infrastructure from the increasing impacts of flooding and climate change, delivering future proofed and climate resilient commuter and freight rail services for Waterford City, Waterford Port and the wider region.

The first phase of the flood defence works has progressed significantly with the construction of the eastern flood defence wall alongside the construction of the new train station and platforms. Trackside drainage works will also commence in this area in the coming weeks.

The next phase of the railway flood defence works is the construction of a new steel sheet pile wall to the west (Sallypark side) of Plunkett Station. This wall is being constructed along the edge of the River Suir and beside the live commuter rail tracks. These piles are up to 25m long and will be individually driven from a barge in the river, with each pile being pitched and placed vertically before being driven to the required level.

The scale of the works and their very close proximity to the live rail tracks means they will be undertaken in accordance with strict railway safety regulations and protocols. Due to the height at which the piles will be pitched the works can only proceed when there is no risk to the adjacent train services, and due to the frequency of services this creates significant programme and logistical challenges.

Consequently there will be some disruption to off-peak services as outlined overleaf.



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Changes to Waterford Plunkett Station Train Services

Off-peak train services will be impacted by the western railway flood defence works on Mondays to Thursdays between the following dates:

- Monday 25th August 2025 to Thursday 27th November 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026 to Thursday 26th March 2026

As a result, the following service alterations will apply:

- 07:20hrs and 10:15hrs Dublin Heuston to Waterford will terminate at Kilkenny, with bus transfers from Kilkenny to Thomastown and Waterford
- 11:00hrs and 13:05hrs Waterford to Dublin Heuston will have bus transfers from Waterford and Thomastown to Kilkenny, and train from Kilkenny to Heuston
- 09:45hrs Limerick Junction to Waterford will terminate at Carrick-on-Suir with bus transfer from Carrick-on-Suir to Waterford



Train Services Alterations

Trains for the outlined Dublin Heuston services will run as normal between Dublin Heuston Station to/from Kilkenny MacDonagh Station and bus transfers will be arranged for all rail passengers between Kilkenny MacDonagh Station and Waterford Plunkett Station or vice versa.

Trains for the outlined Limerick Junction service will run as normal between Limerick Junction and Carrick on Suir Station, and bus transfers will be arranged for all rail passengers between Carrick on Suir Station and Waterford Plunkett Station.

The outlined service alterations ensure that only two of eight services each way daily between Waterford and Dublin are affected Mondays to Thursdays, and that weekends are unaffected.

It will also ensure that full services operate throughout December and the New Year period, crucial for city centre traders and tourism.

Iarnród Éireann & Waterford City & County Council regret the disruption and inconvenience that these temporary arrangements will cause and will provide further information and any updates as the works progress on their respective media platforms.



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